

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Independent claims 1 and 29 have been amended to include certain limitations of claim 3. Allowable claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of base claim 1. Claims 1, 3, 7-12 and 29 have also been revised to improve claim language. New claims 30-31 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The amended/new claims find solid support in the original specification, e.g., paragraph 0044, the last sentence, paragraphs 0045-0050. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Per the Examiner's request, Applicants submit herewith a *sworn* English translation of the priority document.

The claim objection and *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph* rejections are believed overcome in view of the above amendments. As to claim 9, T has been clarified by the formula *moved* to claim 9 from claim 10. As to claim 7, M is included in the definition of d_{ry} as part of d_{ryM} . As to claim 10, which now depends on claims 7 and 9, T and D are defined in claims 9 and 7, respectively. Withdrawal of the *35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph* rejection is now believed appropriate and respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and respective dependent claims 9-12 should be allowed for the reasons stated in paragraph 9 of the Office Action.

The *35 U.S.C. 103(a)* rejection of claims 1-6, 8 and 13-29 is noted. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's position, amendments have nevertheless been made to specifically avoid the rejections, solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution. In particular, independent claims 1 and 29 now include the limitations of claim 3 that "wherein said selecting comprises (b-1) constructing a common co-occurrence matrix of the remaining documents or patterns; and (b-2) using the common co-occurrence matrix to extract, as the seed document or

pattern, the document or pattern having the highest document or pattern commonality to the remaining documents or patterns.”

The Examiner’s reliance on *Kawai*, at paragraphs 0047-0048 for the claim features is noted. Applicants respectfully disagree, because the cited portions of *Kawai* only discloses the number or frequencies at which concepts or terms occur individually in a document. See, e.g., paragraph 0047 at lines 5-7. In contrast, the claim feature calls for consideration of co-occurrence of terms in respective documents. For example, the method of *Kawai* gives consideration only to the frequencies at which term A and term B individually occur in a given document. The *Kawai* method does not consider the co-occurrence frequency at which term A and term B co-occur in a given document. In contrast, such co-occurrence is used in the claimed method in form of the co-occurrence matrix and in the presently claimed manner.

The deficiency of *Kawai* is not deemed curable by the primary reference, and therefore amended independent claims 1 and 29 are patentable over the applied art of record.

The dependent claims, including new claims 30-31 which further clarify the co-occurrence matrix recited in claims 1 and 29, are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to the respective independent claims.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection is now believed appropriate and respectfully requested.

Each of the Examiner’s rejections has been traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant’s attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 08-2025 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
Takahiko KAWATANI

Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400
Telephone: 703-684-1111
Facsimile: 970-898-0640
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